

**ENDEAVOUR**  
Federation

# Believe in Success

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# NEWS LETTER

Spring Term 2022



# Where Learning Comes Naturally

Mother Nature is one of our greatest teachers - she inspires us to get creative, think critically, and connect with each other. Best of all, nature is great for boosting our mood and wellbeing. That's why we offer our students so many opportunities to explore the great outdoors and learn from their environment.

Our Meade Hill pupils loved winding down by the fishing lodges, enjoying the peace and fresh air, making some great catches.



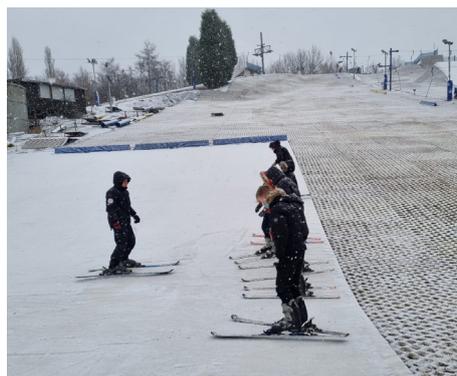
**Gone fishing!**



## The Perks of 100% Attendance! ★

To reward our students with 100% attendance, we took them outside of the classroom into the wider world to have fun and try out new experiences. The year got off to a great start with our skiing trip in January. We went to Stoke Ski Centre, where students learned how to ski down the slopes without losing their balance, and how to climb back to the top again. We were even blessed with some real snow!

Our other achievers got their adrenaline pumping at Trafford Treetop Adventures, spending the day climbing amidst the trees, swinging on ropes, tackling obstacle courses and flying across the zipline. The pupils absolutely loved it and if they ever had a fear of heights, consider them well and truly conquered!





# Meet the newest member of the team!

Meet Buddy, the new Year 7 school dog. Like most springer spaniels, Buddy is very friendly, gentle-natured and affectionate, and loves to be scratched behind the ears.

However, Buddy has the added bonus of being trained as a therapy dog, which means he knows how to sit patiently and listen, calm people down, and get us all smiling again.

Buddy is settling in very well and is already a much loved member of the Southern Cross team.



# Wildlife Connections Project

We were very lucky to host speakers from Chester Zoo this term, who came to talk to us about how we can connect with nature and conserve our native wildlife from home. Students learned about all the creatures they might encounter in their local areas, including details about their diets, habitats, and life cycles. We discussed opening up our gardens

to hedgehogs, toads, and wildflowers, and even setting up boxes for bats to sleep in during the daytime or for birds to make their nests.

Some of our students have already got to work creating their own bird and bat boxes. We think they make lovely homes for our local neighbours!



Following on from our workshops, Year 7's were invited on a trip to Chester Zoo and had an amazing time. We got face to face with some of the smaller creatures, like the butterflies and the bats that flew over our shoulders in the bat cave but we were quite happy to see the lions and tigers - from a distance!



Chester Zoo came to visit us during our Wildlife Connections project!



# Year of the Tiger!



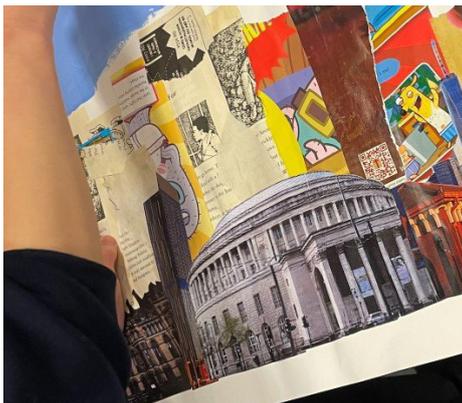
To mark the Chinese New Year, pupils learned all about the rituals and traditions that take place over the fifteen-day celebrations. These include visiting family, sharing food, watching fireworks and dragon dances, as well as gifting money. Students explored the latter in depth, as they experimented with different tools and objects to open Lucky Money Wallets in Science lessons. The trick is that they weren't allowed to use their hands!

kites decorated with Chinese characters, motifs, and animals to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.



The end of the Lunar New Year is usually marked with the Chinese Lantern Festival, which symbolises letting go of the last year and welcoming in the new one. In the spirit of this festival, our students created beautiful

## Artists Finding Their Muse



In Art this term, we found a muse a little closer to home than our usual projects. Working on projects for their Art exam, our Year 10 pupils were inspired by the Manchester skyline and created striking collages of the landscape, merging the old and the new.



Our investigation into street art took us outside of the classroom and into the streets of Manchester, where ASDAN students got to see stunning examples first-hand, including a beautiful mural depicting vibrant birds of paradise, as well as a surreal portrait of a dog wearing a Christmas hat!

## Bon Appétit!

Over the last term, pupils have been working hard to refine their culinary skills and learn more about foods from different cultures and cuisines.

Together, we have decorated cakes, made stuffed-crust pizza, profiteroles, pancakes and baked a variety of delicious fruit pies with lattice pie crusts. Yum!





# Shaping the Future

After mastering skills in bricklaying, plastering, painting and decorating, students set their sights on joinery and tiling.

Starting by familiarising themselves with different joints and woodworking tools, students moved on to drawing designs, building their own structures, and carving out their initials in wooden blocks.

Now, students are learning how to tile with different materials, walls, and techniques in order to achieve high levels of quality in their finished work.

In a matter of weeks, students have gained so many new skills, preparing them for future careers in construction or perhaps their own DIY projects. It has been a pleasure for us to watch all the progress pupils have made.



## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK CHRIS!

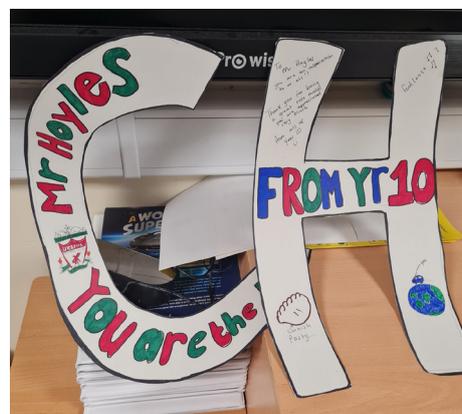
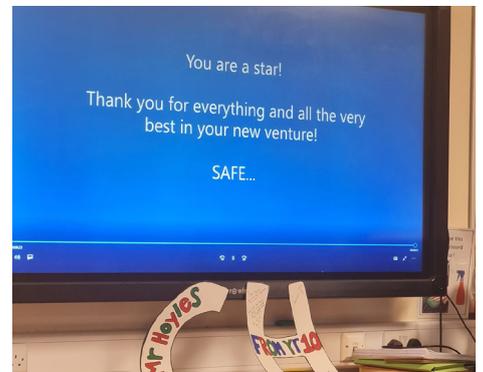
After working together for thirteen years, this term we bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Chris Hoyles, as he moves onto a new adventure.

Most recently Chris was based at Meade Hill as our Safeguarding Officer, but we are sure he will be missed across the federation and by all the families he has served as a Family Liaison Officer over the years.

It was a sad day saying goodbye, but full of smiles and laughter too as we looked back

on our memories together. Chris was one of the pillars of our community at Meade Hill.

It won't quite be the same without him, but we wish him all the best for the future!





# The Duke of Edinburgh Award



Our students went on expedition training, where they practised setting up tents, building campfires, map reading, and trekking through all sorts of muddy terrain.

We visited beautiful places, like Greenbooth Reservoir and the Peak District. Bleaklow Hill lived up to its name - our view was completely shrouded in mist!

We also enjoyed watersports at the Water Adventure Centre in Droylsden, where everyone had to work as a team to manoeuvre their kayaks and canoes. Students were taken out of their comfort zone when they took on the YMCA Lakeside

challenge, navigating their way through a new environment and tackling an obstacle course fit for cadets. Our pupils have developed so much over the course of their adventures, gaining skills in communication, leadership, problem-solving, and so much more. We are very impressed with how far they've come!



## More fun in the Great Outdoors!

KS3 pupils at Castlefield really enjoyed their visit to the Agricultural and Rural Centre, where they learned all about farm life, including what it takes to grow vegetables, clean out hutches and stables, as well as feeding, grooming, and caring for the animals.

Students got to know the rabbits, goats, chickens, and lots of other animals - including the friendly alpacas they took for a walk.



# Life as Police Officer

Earlier this year, we were delighted to welcome Olivia to Southern Cross, who came to tell us all about her role as a police officer. She talked about her background, experiences, and addressed many misconceptions about the job. Pupils were very enthusiastic to get involved in the discussion, asking lots of questions and listening attentively to Olivia.

We were surprised to see how many pupils were eager to try on a pair of handcuffs - but then they were quite glad to get them off again!



## Enjoying the beautiful sights

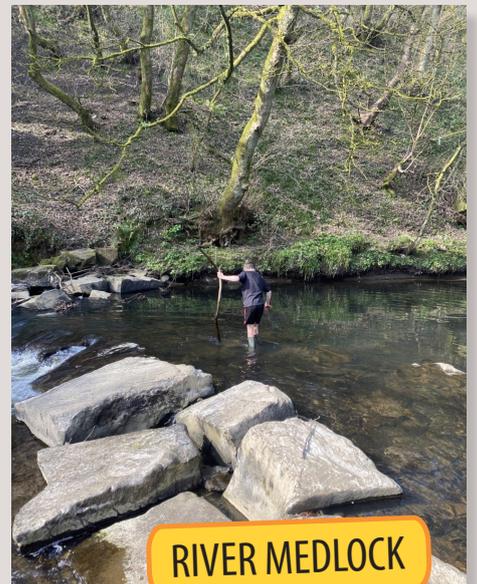


LYME PARK



This term, Southern Cross pupils saw panoramic views from The Roaches and spotted deer at Lyme Park.

Our ARC pupils had great days out at River Medlock and Burrs Country Park, where they weren't afraid to get their feet wet and bravely waded into the rivers.



RIVER MEDLOCK

Likewise, our Year 7's were eager to veer off the beaten track as they made their way up Holcombe Hill, opting to climb the jagged edge instead!

The PET students explored the hills and woodland paths around Dovestones Reservoir, trying not to get lost in the fog!



DOVESTONES RESERVOIR

